

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 049877

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SAB-01 /063 R

DRAFTED BY DOD/ISA:GBLITGEN/NEA/EGY:MSTERNER:PM

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON

VENO:ADM. HOLLOWAY

OJCS:VICE ADM. WEINEL

OJCS:LTG. SEIGNIOUS

DOD/ISA:VICE ADM. PEETS

ASD/PA:MR. FREIDHEIM

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R 122338Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

INFO SECDEF

JCS

CNO

CSA

S E C R E T STATE 049877

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, PFOR, EG, US

SUBJECT: SUEZ CANAL MINE CLEARANCE

REF: CAIRO 1172

1. DOD IS CURRENTLY WORKING UP MINE CLEARANCE PLAN WHICH DEPARTMENT WILL CONVEY TO YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN INTERIM, WE BELIEVE YOU BEST ADVISED TO LIMIT DISCUSSION OF SPECIFICS WITH GOE OFFICIALS TO THOSE GIVEN BELOW UNTIL DOD CLEARANCE PLAN HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND COORDINATED WITH APPROPRIATE AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON.

2. DOD PLAN ENVISIONS AN AIRBORNE MINE COUNTERMEASURE OPERATION USING HELICOPTERS AND TOWED SLEDS. AN AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT SHIP (LPH) ANCHORED OFF PORT SAID WOULD SERVE AS SUPPORT SHIP. HOWEVER, THERE MUST BE A DETERMINATION

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THAT THE LPH APPROACH AND ANCHORAGE AREA IS SAFE AND CLEAR

OF MINES BEFORE THE SWEEPING OF MINES IN THE WATERS OF THE CANAL CAN COMMENCE.

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3. THE EARLY RECEIPT OF MINE INFORMATION IS NECESSARY CONCERNING ANY GOE-LAID MINEFIELDS WHICH WOULD THREATEN THE LPH IN ITS APPROACH OR ANCHORAGE. YOU THEREFORE REQUESTED APPROACH FOREIGN MINISTRY ASAP TO ASCERTAIN THE DESCRIPTION, LOCATION, NUMBER, AND TYPES OF MINES, MOORING DEPTHS, MINE SETTINGS, AND ANY MINESWEEPING OPERATIONS THAT HAVE ALREADY

BEEN CONDUCTED BY GOE IN APPROACHES TO OR VICINITY OF PORT SAID.

4. DEPARTMENT SEES NO REPEAT NO FURTHER NEED FOR HIGHLY RESTRICTED CLASSIFICATION.

5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE: THERE SHOULD BE NO PUBLIC COMMENT AT THIS TIME BY US OFFICIALS ON THE CONTENTS OF THIS MESSAGE OR THE GENERAL SUBJECT OF CANAL CLEARING. STATE AND DEFENSE WILL PROVIDE PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE AS NECESSARY.

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